

Fiscal Year 2006

1st Quarter
(July – Sept. 2005)

New Hampshire Department of Resources & Economic Development Division of Forests and Lands Quarterly Update



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On August 25th the Division of Forests and Lands, along with many other agencies and organizations, participated in the White Mountain National Forest Festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of the USDA Forest Service. Displays, demonstrations, nature hikes and tours were held throughout the day at no charge to the public.

On August 18th the Division joined Councilor Ray Burton in hosting the annual Forests and Lands summer field tour. Stops included Foster & Cloburn State Forest, King Forest Industries, Glencliff Home for the Elderly, Rumney Fire Station, Blair State Forest, and the property of Justice William Batchelder. Pictured here are DRED Commissioner Sean O'Kane, John King, Councilor Burton, and Forests & Lands Director Phil Bryce.



Balsam fir mortality in Carroll, NH caused by the non-native pest **Balsam Woolly Adelgid**. Each of the last four years the Forest health Section has detected more than 4000 acres of serious damage to fir from this pest. In 2005 forest health staff mapped over 9000 acres of damage. Balsam woolly adelgid was first seen in NH in the 1970's and winter temperatures were credited with reducing populations to endemic levels. Today we find BWA throughout NH in most fir stands below 2000 feet in elevation.

Quarterly Update

Forest Management

Current Ongoing Timber Sale Activity							
Property	Project #	Town	Acres	MBF	Tons/Cds	Value	Status
Nursery	P2-329	Boscawen	100	---	400	\$ 4,000.00	Operating Inactive
Cardigan	P2-366	Orange	95	255.006	1,217	\$117,318.94	Operating Inactive
White Lake	P2-363	Tamworth	130	506.000	145	\$121,918.10	Completed
Gile	P2-365	Springfield	140	227.000	2,011	\$67,557.12	Operating Inactive
Enfield WMA	P2-367	Enfield	90	92.227	527	\$78,800.20	Operating Active
Province Road	P2-363	Dorchester	40	97.800	450	\$ 23,614.5	Operating Inactive
Kona WMA	P2-358	Moultonborough	162	761.100	677	\$151,212.80	Completed
Kearsarge Mtn.	P2-360	Warner & Salisbury	140	315.000	2,280.1	\$115,849.30	Contracted
Wade	P2-361	Hill	34	114.150	237	\$26,066.00	Operating Inactive
Hemenway	P2-359	Tamworth	40	205.800	200	\$ 28,312.60	Operating Inactive
Cardigan	P2-323	Orange	111	104.250	425	\$11,805.00	Operating Inactive
Alton Bay	P2-369	Alton	30	51.500	1,070	\$13,812.50	Contracted
Pine River	P2-371	Effingham	65	201.500	1,651	\$30,517.50	Contracted
Ellacoya	P2-373	Gilford	41	142.100	802	-----	Showing: 10/5/05
Lower Shaker	P2-372	Enfield	6	116.200	1,737	-----	Showing: 10/12/05
Gile	P2-370	Springfield	248	168.165	2,442	\$61,112.53	Contracted
Blackwater	P1-470	Salisbury	47.0	380.865	780	\$88,000	Operating - active
Blackwater	P1-478	Salisbury	45.0	153.210	340	\$29,400	Contracted
Bear Brook	P1-474	Allenstown	165.0	252.000	1993	\$61,718	Contracted
Lamontagne & Woodman Marsh WMS	P1-468	Deerfield & Northwood	77	169.347	433 (cords)	\$34,800.46	Operating Active
Powder Mill Pond WMA	P1-472	Greenfield	73	90.164	1003	\$10,819.51	Operating Inactive
Perkins Pond WMA	P1-437	Weare	100	209.889	436 (cords)	\$26,107.44	Operating Inactive
Nash Stream	P3-373	Stratford	150	209.115	2882	60,952.00	Sale Pending
Nash Stream	P3-370	Stratford	135	205.676	4550	54,924.10	Completed
Nash Stream	P3-370A	Stark	265	109.765	4113	52,732.00	Operating Inactive

Inventory			
Property	Town	Field Work (acres)	Inventory Reports & Mapping (acres)
Foster-Colburn	Wentworth		Map – completed (240)
Nash Stream	Stratford & Odell	690	
Franklin Falls	Hill	116	
Shieling	Peterborough	44	44
Shaker	Canterbury	20	20
Fox State Forest	Hillsborough	87.5	
Annett State Forest Black Brook Compartment	Sharon & Rindge	221	
Corey WMA	Deerfield	172 (Prescription cruise completed)	

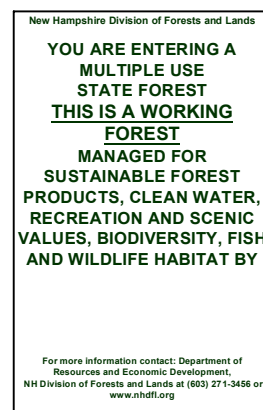
Forest Management *continued*

Forest Management Quarterly Highlights

Forestry & Wildlife Program	South Region – 3.7 acres of mast tree release, 2.9 acres of orchard restoration, Bear Brook State Park: Apple tree release & lime, seed and fertilize 3.6 acres. Flood Control Areas – 144.5 acres of field mowing
Forest Roads	Contracted for 2 miles of road work; investigated storm damage to Province Road State Forest in Groton & Dorchester for forest management access. 14 miles of Nash Stream Rd graded; improved ditching and culvert replacement of 4 miles of Little Bog Pond Rd; 35 miles of road mowing at Nash Stream Forest. Reclaimed, Graded & Compacted 2.5 miles of old rte. 77, 100' of roadwork and 60x60 parking area put in for access to B-Brk Podunk Rd Candia-Hall Mtn trail
Education & Outreach	Participated in the Green Mtn. Conservation Group Watershed Weekend, USFS 100 th year centennial celebration & career day at Belmont High School.. Staff gave at presentation at Shieling SF on management on state lands and the timber sale at Shieling. Designed and implemented State Forest signing program for public interpretation of property management. Two kiosks and interpretive signs were installed for 340 acres of timber and habitat management. Regional Staff gave presentations on upcoming timber sales, use of GPS and non-commercial wildlife habitat on state land at the first annual DRED Forests and Lands Buyers meeting. Regional Staff assisted NHI volunteers looking for rare plants on Fitch Mountain at Nash Stream.
Nursery	July through September work focus is on cultural activities in seedbeds, taking inventory of shippable seedlings for spring 2006 sales, seed collection and preparing soils for fall planting.
Recreation	Worked with snowmobile club on 2 miles of trails at Gile & Pine River State Forests, reviewed snowmobile trail project at Bear Brook State Park Rehabilitated 800' of recreation trails at Bear Brook SP. Regional Staff assisted Fish and Game and Trout unlimited with fish sampling and culvert assessment for trout habitat restoration at Nash Stream Forest.
Technical Assistance	Assisted ranger staff with 10 suspected basal area violations on 3 properties, 3 roadside basal area violations in Errol, and 1 timber trespass in Laconia.
TSI	30 acres completed by summer crew.
Easement monitoring	Easement monitoring conducted on Connecticut Lakes Headwaters, Piermont Mountain, and Bunting Family Forest.
Timber Harvest Preparation	Prescription cruise for 3 new sales on Wade, Cardigan & Thomas State Forests. Finished marking 100 acre timber sale at Bear Brook State Park and 80 acre timber sale at Agnew State Forest.

New Signs for DRED lands

Visitors to DRED lands will soon see new signs designed by the Forest Management Bureau staff. The signs were developed to inform visitors about some important aspects of DRED lands, such as road improvements, timber harvests and the management mission of these lands. The signs also contain contact information including the Division's website address, to encourage the public to contact us.



Quarterly Update

Natural Heritage

Activities	Information	Qtr	Ytd
Database records added or updated	Biotics: Mapper and Tracker databases	250	250
Environmental reviews	For: DES / DOT / federal grants / planning boards	286	286
Information requests – GIS		11	11
– Other		900	900
Landowners contacted – survey permission	Section 6: Isotria (7) and Scirpus (3)	10	10
Projects opened	State Lands IV, Ossipee Lake Natural Area Inventory, and Lake Wentworth Foundation Inventory	3	3
Projects closed		0	0
Reports prepared		0	0
Training / Workshops presented / Assisted	Umbagog Wildlife Festival, Division of Forests and Lands Summer Tour w/Councilor Burton	2	2
Training / Workshops Attendees	Umbagog (25), Summer Tour (20)	45	45
Other outreach		0	0
Web page additions	Monthly Updates	3	3
Professional Improvement Training Attended	IPANE/Pocket PC workshop (2), Biotics (1)	3	3
Committee / Meetings Attended	ArcView Users Group, NH GIS Advisory Committee, Comprehensive Wildlife planning meetings, State Land Management Team, NH Invasive Species Committee, F&L GIS Planning Group, Eastern Regional Ecologists, DRED GIS planning Group	8	8
Conferences Attended	Northeast Regional Heritage Conference, NE Arc Users Conference, Invasive Plant Summit 2005	3	3

***Northeastern bulrush** (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*) at the new Fall Mountain State Forest in Charlestown and Langdon, NH. The donation of this property to the State of New Hampshire by The Nature Conservancy will provide lasting protection to this federally endangered and globally rare plant.*



Urban Forester – Highlights

- TREE CITY USA: Monitored urban forestry and arboriculture activities in twenty-two New Hampshire communities. Identified, initiated, and responded to community inquiries re new, prospective TREE CITY USA candidate communities for the 2006 application process. Updated www.nhdfl.org relative to 2005 New Hampshire TREE CITY USA Program.
- TREE MEMORIAL PROGRAM: Dedicated the “Timothy J. Powers Memorial Tree” in the City of Dover partnering with the NH Funeral Directors Association and the City of Dover. Responded to thirteen inquiries about the program and initiated the process for program implementation with three interested donors and respective recipient communities.
- ARBORISTS CERTIFICATION: Presented ten arboriculture training seminars and provided more than seventy-three directed study programs and consultations to candidate arborists in preparation for the fall 2005 New Hampshire Arborists Association Arborists Certification Exam.
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Responded to more than 210 arboriculture and urban forestry information requests.

Quarterly Update

Land Management

Land Management

- Conducted a public information meeting at Stark Town Hall for the proposed Phillips Brook Forest Legacy project
- Renewed a 50-year agreement with the Merrimack County Commissioners to use an irrigation pond at the State Forest Nursery.
- Entered into phase 3 contract with Complex Systems Research Center to enter additional DRED lands into the NH GRANIT (Geographic Information System) database.

Acquisitions

- Closed the "Langley Parkway" city road surplus project across the White Farm SF.
- Closed on the sale of the Priest House and Lot at Shieling State Forest in Peterborough.
- Continued work on the following forest land acquisitions: Rossview Farm, Moose Mountain, Scribner-Fellows & Allen State Forest gift of land & ROW.
- Continue to work on the following acquisitions for Division of Parks: Mt. Washington Summit/Dartmouth tract, Jerico Lake - Berlin, Palmer group fee and easement lands - Twin Mtn., Rockingham Recreation Trail improvement project.

Technical Assistance

- Issued 6 special use permits on DRED lands
- Assisted the Fish & Game department with land protection projects at Great Bay.

Boundary Line Maintenance

- A total of 15.6 miles of boundary line maintenance was completed. Tracts worked on included Cardigan SF & Fall Mountain SF.



13 Mile Woods II

New Hampshire acquired a conservation easement on this 5,316 acre property in August through the Forest Legacy Program.

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between participating States and the USDA Forest Service to identify and help protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. Conservation easements are the main tool used for protecting these lands. The Division of Forests and Lands administers this program.

Year-to-Date Status of New Hampshire Forest Legacy Projects

Project	Acres	Application Approved	Funding Status	Project Status
13 Mile Woods II <i>Errol, Cambridge</i>	5,316	8/13/02	FY 05 \$1,900,000	Project Completed August 10, 2005
Moose Mountain <i>Middleton, Brookfield, New Durham, Alton</i>	2,081	8/13/02	FY 04 \$988,000	limited use appraisal completed & under review easement negotiations underway
Rossvie Farm <i>Concord</i>	515	5/25/04	FY06 request	easement under development appraisal completed
Willard Pond <i>Stoddard, Antrim</i>	2,031	9/23/04	FY06 request	In proposed budget at \$550,000
Temple Mountain <i>Temple</i>	293	9/23/04	FY06 request	Landowner negotiations underway
Phillips Brook <i>Odell, Millsfield, Dummer, Columbia, Ervings Location</i>	23,718	9/30/05	FY07 request	Easement under development
Page Brook <i>Meredith</i>	567	9/30/05	FY07 request	Appraisal underway

Forest Fire & Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Activity																
	Deceptive Forestry		Timber Trespass		Water Quality		B/A Slash		Timber Tax		Fire		Other		Total	
	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd	qtr	ytd
Court Summons - Felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court Summons - Misdemeanor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court Summons – Violation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	7	7	0	0	9	9
Administrative Summons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Warning	2	2	3	3	5	5	19	19	8	8	12	12	1	1	50	50
Cease & Desist	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Total	2	2	3	3	6	6	20	20	9	9	21	21	1	1	62	62
Timber Sale Activity																
			Qtr		YTD											
Number of Intents Filed			912		912											
Number of Initial Inspections			478		478											
Number of Reinspections			75		75											
Fire Protection and Prevention Activities																
			Qtr		YTD											
Number of Fires			72		72											
Total Acres			21.088		21.088											
Number of Structures			0		0											
Reported by:																
Tower			29		29											
Air Patrol			0		0											
Mobile Patrol			3		3											
Citizen Call			23		23											
Ranger			17		17											
Outreach																
			Total				Attendees									
			Qtr		YTD		Qtr		YTD							
Calls for Service – Timber Law Enforcement			225		225											
Calls for Service – Fire Law Enforcement			132		132											
Calls for Service – Fire protection			245		245											
Student Presentations			13		13		1892		1892							
Public Presentations			33		33		1302		1302							
Fire Training			4		4		130		130							
Timber Law Enforcement Training			1		1		10		10							

Highlights: Numerous state resources were mobilized during the last quarter to support emergency relief efforts throughout North America. In July, thirty-two firefighters were sent to help suppress numerous forest fires in northern Quebec, our first-ever international crew call-up. In August, twenty more firefighters were sent to Idaho. Eleven single resources were sent to such places as Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi to assist in both firefighting and hurricane disaster relief efforts.



New Hampshire #1 Fire Crew takes time to pose for a photo at fire camp in northern Quebec.

Forest Health

Highlights: In the summer of 2005 forest pest damage was at its highest level since the Gypsy Moth defoliation events of the mid-1980s. The forest health program documented serious damage or defoliation on over 100,000 acres of forest land caused by a variety of insects and diseases including forest tent caterpillar (70,000 acres), balsam woolly adelgid (9,500 acres), birch decline complex (3,200 acres), pine needle miner (4,200 acres), and tar spot disease (11,000 acres).

Outreach

- Participated in interviews by 5 newspapers, 2 TV news groups, one radio station and one Documentary production regarding forest tent outbreaks and tar spot disease.
- Presented forest health issues at the Forests & Lands Summer Tour.
- Presented information on forest Health at three workshops for professional foresters and loggers
- Attended four regional workshops regarding threats from exotic pests.

Regulation

- Continue Quarantine on movement of hemlock roundwood out of Rockingham County requiring timber harvest inspections and inspections of forest lots and yards.
- Legislation has been submitted to adopt a fine schedule for those found guilty of breaking the quarantine regulations.

Technical Assistance

- Responded to 61 requests for information regarding dozens of pests.
- Made 16 site visits to land owners with forest/tree health problems.

Forest Health Evaluation

- Emerald Ash Borer - Conducted trap tree surveys at 10 parks around the state, forested lot surveys in each county and street tree surveys in Concord, Keene, Nashua and Manchester looking for any occurrence of or damage from emerald ash borer (EAB). No EAB was found.
- Completed an aerial survey of all state and private forests of NH. 111,282 acres were mapped with serious damage from one of 23 different insects or diseases.
- Completed annual pheromone surveys for forest tent caterpillar, saddle prominent, and spruce budworm. Forest tent caterpillar is on the rise, all others remain endemic.
- No new hemlock woolly adelgid infestation was found this quarter. There are no known infestations outside Rockingham County.
- Completed survey for Sudden Oak Death at ten high risk tree nursery sites. All samples sent for lab analysis have come back negative
- Conducted field data collection on timber harvesting soil compaction study.
- Ground checked 50% of all aerial survey data polygons.

Eradication

Forest Tent Caterpillar – easily identified by the keyhole pattern along the back.



Community Forestry & Stewardship

Outreach & Education

- 11 Programs were presented at the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest. They were attended by 252 people.
- Coming Events flyers for programs at the Urban Forestry Center and Shieling Forest were distributed to 4,487 individuals.
- Staff responded to 595 requests for information
- Updated Taylor Sawmill brochure.
- Presented at or provided assistance for 2 workshops held off-site.
- Prepared division display for WMNF Centennial Celebration & Lancaster Fair.

Community Assistance

- Organized a Community Tree Steward Recognition Day attended by 47 Community Tree Stewards.
- Provided assistance to the following communities: Portsmouth, Durham, Somersworth, Gilford, Pittsfield.

Partnership Activities.

- Coordinated volunteer activities for the following groups: Portsmouth High School, United Way Seacoast Day of Caring, Life Share.; resulting in over 700 hours of volunteer work.
- Presented at the following partner-sponsored events: Thompson School Horticulture Program, Tar Spot program.

Office of the Director

Legislative activity: The Division of Forests and Lands is working with members of the NH legislature to introduce a bill that (1) requires all forest rangers hired after 1/1/05 to complete full-time police officer training, (2) authorizes the director of forests and lands to regulate entry into or movement within the state of any wood product which may cause the introduction or spread of a dangerous insect or disease, (3) defines and registers wood concentration yards, and (4) penalizes the failure to provide a written contract for the purchase of forest products as deceptive forestry business practices. This bill will be introduced in the 2006 legislative session.

Forest Policy: Director Bryce was recently named chair of the Public Lands Committee of the National Association of State Foresters. Director Bryce was also elected vice-chair of the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC) by NFFPC commission members.

Current Use Board (director serves as chair): Work continues on updating the computer model used to calculate forestland ranges. The Current Use Board is proposing no changes in the assessment ranges. The current use rules are up for renewal. Public input is being sought at the fall current use forums.

Forester Licensing Board (director serves as chair):

Number of new licensees: 5

Number of disciplinary actions: 1

Number of complaints under investigation: 2

*Commissioner Sean O'Kane presents TNC Director Darrell Burtnett with an artist's rendering of the federally endangered and globally rare Northeastern bulrush at the dedication of **Fall Mountain State Forest** in Charlestown. Also pictured are Forests & Lands Director Philip Bryce, Sen. Bob Odell, and Alice Chaimberlain, a member of Governor Lynch's staff.*



Employee Recognition & Personnel Status

Employee Recognition

In August, **Neil Bilodeau** was hired to fill the South Region, Forest Ranger I position of in the Forest Protection Bureau. He is currently attending the NH Police Academy's full-time police officer training.

In August, **Will Guinn** was promoted to the position of Forester III responsible for Fox Research Forest and forest management activities in the southern portion of the state. Will has been an employee of the Division since 1999 and was previously a Forest Technician in the Central Region for the Forest Management Bureau.

Vacancies

Division vacancies include: Forest Technician III, Forest Ranger I, and Senior Accounting Technician.

For More Information:

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